

HISTORY
OF
RUSH COUNTY,
INDIANA.

FROM THE EARLIEST TIME TO THE PRESENT, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES, NOTES, ETC., TOGETHER WITH A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE NORTHWEST, THE INDIANA TERRITORY,
AND THE STATE OF INDIANA.

ILLUSTRATED.

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EXCERPT and CITATION

Study notes of Benjamin and William Machlan p483...

by Jesse Carpenter

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The subject is a zealous member of the Christian Church in which he has been Deacon for several years. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and is a representative citizen.

BENJAMIN AND WILLIAM MACHLAN. — Over a century ago, in 1763, and in Scotland, there was born John Machlan, the paternal grandparent of William and Benjamin. This grandparent came across the Atlantic to America, when a youth, and afterward settled and married in Lycoming County, Pa. He was married to Hester Updegraff, who was American born, and of French lineage. This marriage was blessed by the following children: Rebecca, John, William, George and two others who died in early life. The mother of these children died in Pennsylvania, and adversity after adversity beset the father, and the family was reduced to poverty. The father determined on a removal to Ohio, and in the fall of 1816, removed to Butler County, of that State, where he settled and lived for seven years. The stay in Ohio was accompanied by a financial success, for the father was a farmer, and by his industry, together with the co-operation of his children, he was successful in that pursuit in Ohio, and he determined to remove to Indiana. Accordingly in the spring of 1823, the removal was made, and a settlement was made in Rush County, where lands were purchased. The father continued his agricultural pursuits, and his following life was identified with the pioneer settlement of Rush County. In his calling his success was evident, and at last he became a prosperous man. Though his early life was beset by many difficulties, his last days were more of sunshine. He was a descendant of a Quaker family, and was faithful to the Quaker faith. He lived a long and useful life, and in the fall of 1839, was called away. We have observed the death of his wife, who died in Pennsylvania. She was a devoted mother and wife, an ardent Friend in truth and in sect. She was of the Quaker faith, in which she was reared, and lived and died in that faith. After her death, and after the removal to Ohio, Mr. Machlan married for a second wife, Sarah Woods, who lived nine years after Mr. Machlan's death, and then was called away. John Machlan, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Lycoming County, Pa., in May of 1795. He was reared on a farm, and never attended school a day in his life, but in later days he learned to read, and being a man of strong intellectual power, he became conversant on general subjects. He was an industrious and frugal man, reserved in character, and a very considerate citizen, possessing conservativeness, honesty, sobriety and sincerity. Born a poor boy, he died a prosperous man; his success in life was due to his untiring energy, firmness and perseverance. His life pursuit was that of farming, in which he was practical and successful. He came to In-

diana in 1823, the date of his father's settlement in the State, and purchased a small tract of land in Rush County, and when he died he owned a broad tract of more than 400 acres. His early life was beset by many difficulties. In the spring of 1818, he chose a companion for life, and was united in marriage with Sally Day, in Butler County, Ohio. Sally was born in York State, in the year 1800, and was of English and Dutch lineage. She was a strong and sturdy woman, and proved a faithful companion to her husband, whose struggle in early life was difficult. At his marriage he began a hard battle, for he was very poor, and hard toil was his lot. He often said in after life, that hard toil seasoned his bread, and that he thanked God that he was blessed with Sally, to whom he attributed much of his success in life. Sally was not only a faithful wife, but a kind and faithful friend and mother, and a devout Christian. She lived a useful life of forty-seven years, and in the spring of 1846, was called away, leaving a family of seven children to mourn her loss. The number of children that were born unto her marriage was eleven, but four died in early life. The names of the others are: Benjamin, William, Sarah, Joseph, Mary, Martha and Phibia. The father of those children married for a second wife, Alvira Garner *nee* Alvira Shaw. He was reared in the Quaker faith, but at the age of twenty-eight, he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a zealous member throughout the remainder of his life. His death occurred in the fall of 1857. Benjamin is the older of our subjects, and was born in Butler County, Ohio, November 12, 1822, but was reared in Rush County, Ind., receiving a fair education in the country schools. He has followed farming for an occupation. In July, 1840, he married Louisa Hume, who was born in Boone County, Ky., in 1820; her death occurred in July of 1875. Seven children were born unto her as follows: Sarah, Mary, Wilbert, Margaret, George and two others who died early in life. In 1876, Benjamin married for a second wife, Susan Bows, *nee* Susan Hume. William, the younger of our subjects, was born in Rush County, Ind., February 2, 1825, and was reared on a farm in his native county, receiving a common school education in the country schools. He has followed farming as an occupation, and is one of the most extensive farmers of Orange Township. In the spring of 1845, he was united in marriage with Sarah Carpenter, who was born in Butler County, Ohio, May 3, 1825. Unto them have been born John, Catherine and Merit.

BENJAMIN L. MCFARLAN, whose portrait appears in this volume, is a farmer and stock-raiser of Orange Township, Rush Co., Ind., and was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, October 14, 1844, and is